

## House Resolution 309

By: Representatives Willard of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Richardson of the 19<sup>th</sup>, Keen of the 179<sup>th</sup>, Burkhalter of the 50<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 46<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the bicentennial anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, who is revered as one of the most influential and  
4 important presidents of this nation's history, was born in Hardin County, Kentucky, on  
5 February 12, 1809; and

6 WHEREAS, motivated in his youth by a fear that he would be remembered for achieving  
7 nothing during his lifetime, President Lincoln made extraordinary efforts to attain knowledge  
8 and serve his country with service as a captain in the Black Hawk War, eight years as an  
9 Illinois legislator, years as a talented litigator, and the honor of the first Republican Party  
10 president; and

11 WHEREAS, after earning a national reputation during his debate for the seat as Illinois  
12 Senator against Stephen A. Douglas, President Lincoln won the Republican party's  
13 nomination for president in 1860 and built the party into a strong national organization; and

14 WHEREAS, President Lincoln took office as the nation's 16th President on March 4, 1861,  
15 as the United States was on the brink of civil war and fought for reunification for the next  
16 four years; and

17 WHEREAS, on January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued his and this country's most  
18 ground-breaking and momentous declarations, the Emancipation Proclamation, calling for  
19 the release of all slaves; and

20 WHEREAS, on the closing days of the war, President Lincoln demonstrated compassion and  
21 enlightenment, choosing to focus on reconciliation of the states instead of victory; and

22 WHEREAS, one of history's greatest leaders and wordsmiths, President Lincoln's speech  
23 dedicating the military cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, eloquently reminds all who  
24 hear it that even in the tragedy and sadness of war, hope remains; and

25 WHEREAS, his magnanimous and dignified leadership has served as a torch for all leaders  
26 of this country and his legacy has been commemorated in music, poetry, and sculpture; and

27 WHEREAS, Lincoln's goal of finding unity in the great diversity of this nation lives on each  
28 day, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that this body honor the amazing contributions  
29 and life of President Lincoln during the bicentennial year of his birth.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
31 the members of this body honor the life and memory of President Abraham Lincoln and the  
32 two centuries of change and progress that have resulted from his vision and guidance.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
34 and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to members of the public and  
35 the press.